

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 25, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to encourage you to swiftly and strongly clarify that anyone who is indicted in the ongoing CIA leak investigation will be removed from the White House immediately and until the case is resolved.

It is important that you make this clear before Mr. Fitzgerald's investigation concludes, so that the American people know that your standard will not shift depending on the status of the individual(s) indicted -- whether it is a low-level assistant or the most trusted and high-ranking aide, anyone indicted and thus found likely to have violated the law on a national security issue should be treated the same and removed from the White House staff.

Second, because this investigation is so important, we should all commit now, before Mr. Fitzgerald's decision, that we will abide by it - whether there is an indictment or not. While I was the first to call for this investigation out of concern for possible breaches in our national security, and I have followed it very closely, I have already announced that I will abide by Mr. Fitzgerald's decisions whatever the outcome -- indictments or no indictments. I urge you to announce that you will accept his decisions as well.

Finally, recent press stories have contained some troubling statements from anonymous "White House allies" attempting to discredit Mr. Fitzgerald personally, perhaps in anticipation of coming indictments. Mr. Fitzgerald is widely acknowledged to be an apolitical "prosecutor's prosecutor," and beyond reproach. Any suggestions to the contrary, made for political purposes, would be inappropriate and damaging to the justice process. I urge you to call on your alleged "allies" to refrain from attacking either Mr. Fitzgerald or his decision, whatever it is.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. E. Schumer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles E. Schumer